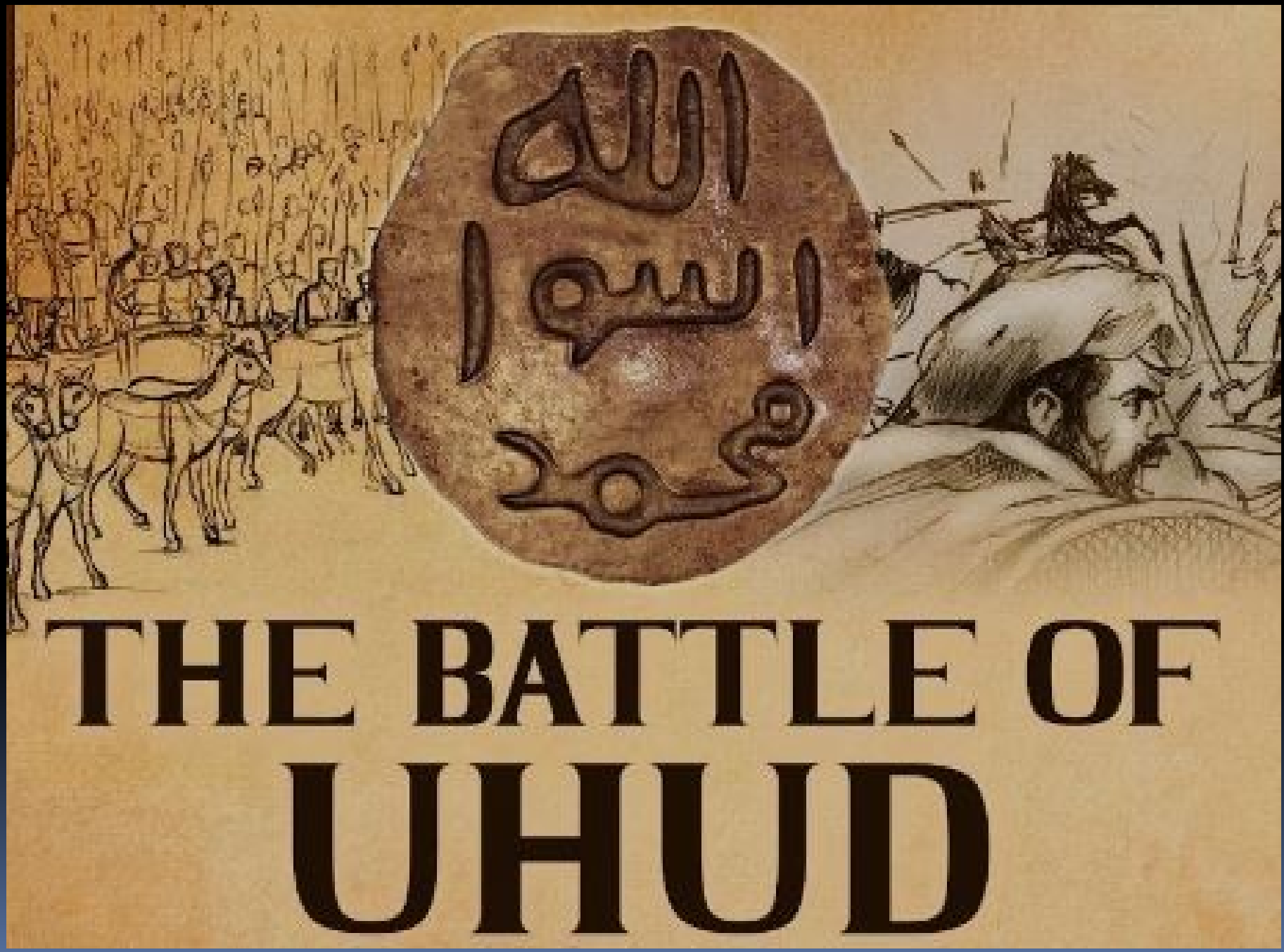
THE BATTLE OF
UHUD

Battle of Uhud – Life & Importance of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)

The Battle of Uhud was the second great battle in Islamic history, taking place one year after the Battle of Badr.
It occurred in 3 AH, in the valley near Mount Uhud, north of Madinah. It was a test of obedience, patience, and unity.
Prophet Muhammad himself fought in the battle, showing courage and sacrifice, while Muslims learned lessons of discipline and steadfastness.

Date & Location

 Date: 7 Shawwal, 3 AH → 23 March 625 CE
 Location: Valley near Mount Uhud, 5 km north of Madinah
 Time: Battle began after sunrise

Uhud became a sacred landmark in Islamic history. Prophet said:
“Uhud is a mountain that loves us, and we love it.” (Sahih Bukhari)

Causes / Background

• Quraysh wanted revenge for their defeat at Badr (2 AH), where many of their leaders like Abu Jahl, Utbah, and Shaybah were killed.
• Their honor was destroyed in front of Arab tribes, and their trade route to Syria was under threat.
• Quraysh raised an army of 3,000 fighters, including 200 cavalry and 700 armored men.
• Prophet gathered 1,000 Muslims, but Abdullah bin Ubayy, leader of hypocrites, left with 300, reducing the army to 700 faithful believers.

Reference: Seerah Ibn Hisham, Sahih Bukhari

Prophet’s Dream & Strategy

- Prophet saw a dream: Armor = Madinah (defensive war). Slaughtered cows = martyrs.
- Prophet suggested defending Madinah, but young companions insisted on fighting outside.
- He wore two armors for the first time, showing preparation and seriousness.
- 50 archers were placed on Jabal al-Rumah hill, under Abdullah ibn Jubayr (R.A).
- Prophet commanded: 'Do not leave your post, whether we win or lose, until I order you.'

Reference: Sahih Bukhari

Muslim Commanders

- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ – Supreme Commander.
- Ali ibn Abi Talib (R.A), Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib (R.A) †, Abu Bakr (R.A), Umar ibn al-Khattab (R.A).
- Abu Dujana (R.A), Talha ibn Ubaydullah (R.A), Zubayr ibn al-Awwam (R.A).
- Abdullah ibn Jubayr (R.A) † commanded the archers.
- Mundhir ibn Amr (R.A) † among the martyrs.

These companions displayed courage and stood by the Prophet ﷺ.

Quraysh Commanders

- Abu Sufyan ibn Harb – Commander-in-Chief.
- Hind bint Utba – motivated Quraysh to avenge her father.
- Khalid ibn al-Walid – led cavalry attack (later became Muslim).
- Ikrima ibn Abi Jahl, Amr ibn al-As, and Safwan ibn Umayya – key leaders.

The Quraysh army was highly motivated, well-equipped, and burning with revenge.

Battle Events

- Muslims began with victory: Ali (R.A), Hamza (R.A), Abu Dujana (R.A) fought bravely.
- Quraysh started retreating; Muslims began collecting spoils.
- Archers disobeyed Prophet’s command and left their hill.
- Khalid ibn al-Walid attacked from behind with cavalry, turning the tide.
- Prophet was injured: his helmet pierced his cheek, his tooth was broken.
- Rumor spread: 'The Prophet has been killed.' Morale weakened.
- Hamza (R.A) was martyred; Hind mutilated his body.

Casualties

- Muslims: 62–75 martyrs, including Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib (R.A), Abdullah ibn Jubayr (R.A), and Mundhir ibn Amr (R.A).
- Quraysh: 22–35 killed, including Ubayy ibn Khalaf, killed directly by Prophet ﷺ.
- Prophet ﷺ personally oversaw the burial of the martyrs at Uhud.
- Martyrs of Uhud remain honored as Shuhada till today.

Quranic Verses

 فَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنتُمُ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ
“So do not weaken and do not grieve, for you will be superior if you are true believers.” (Aal Imran 3:139)

 وَلَقَدْ صَدَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ إِذْ تَحُسُّونَهُم بِإِذْنِهِ
“Allah certainly fulfilled His promise to you when you were killing them with His permission…” (Aal Imran 3:152)

Lessons Learned

- Obedience: Disobedience to Prophet brought defeat.
- Discipline: Unity and steadfastness are keys to victory.
- Patience: Hardships are a test of faith, not a failure.
- Leadership: Prophet showed courage despite injury, motivating companions.
- Pride: Overconfidence after Badr caused mistakes, teaching humility.

Past Paper Questions (2058)

Q1: Describe the causes of the Battle of Uhud. [4]
Q2: How did the Prophet show leadership at Uhud? [10]
Q3: What lessons can Muslims learn from Uhud? [6]
Q4: Why did the Muslims lose despite early success? [10]
Q5: How does the Quran describe the Battle of Uhud? [4]

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